

**[Mr. and Mrs. Pace]**

Dec. 20, 1938.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Pace,

Route 1,

Hendersonville, N. C.

Luline L. Mabry, writer.

MR. AND MRS. PACE

No names changed. C9 - N.C. Box 1

Luline L. Mabry, Rt. 5.

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A sparkling little stream and a beautifully shaded ravine running through the six-acre farm at Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Pace of Dana, N. C., furnish materials for a lucrative and enjoyable business which Mrs. Pace established six years ago and which has now grown into an astonishing success. It to the marketing of miniature evergreen house gardens

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— small bowls of tiny plants, fragile mosses of various hues, and wee red berries which she makes and sells in the Hendersonville curb market. They range in price from 15¢ to 50¢ and find their way into the homes of many people as table decorations of a lasting nature, as gifts to shut-ins, as Christmas remembrances, and are also in great demand by [?] restaurants and hotels where they are used to center small tables.

Before her marriage Mrs. Pace was Miss Daisy Justice, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. S. Justice. They have a 75 acre farm in the Dana section. Mrs. Justice maintains a table of farm products and flowers next to her daughter's stall in the curb market, while Mr. Justice, in addition to his farm activities, sells farms and other real estate. Mr. Pace also has a farm back ground, as his parents own a 50 acre farm and saw mill in the Edneyville district.

"Soon after I was married," said Mrs. Pace, "I had an expensive sickness— a ruptured appendix and all that one means, which left us about \$500 in debt. That wasn't a very good start, so as soon as I was well I thought of this tiny gardens idea, and I bought some small pottery bowls and we began to search our woods and the ravine on our place for suitable little plants to make them attractive. I put them in the curb market and I found ready sale for all I made. Now I not only sell lots of them to 2 patrons of the market, but I get wholesale orders, too. Just this winter I had an order from the S & W Cafeteria of Asheville for 85 little gardens and I sold an order of 24 to the Home Food Shop of Hendersonville. I've sold more than 1000 since September.

"My husband works in Shipman LaCross Hosiery Mill, but on Saturday and in all his spare time from his work he is busy hunting / the little plants, mosses and berries for my garden bowls. We are working and saving to pay for our little farm, and we have some interesting plans for our future. We're both so happy and contented in our work. My great-great-grandfather, James Dyer Justice, was one of the pioneers of Hendersonville. He helped lay out its streets. There is an enlarged picture of him hanging among others in our Court House. The deeds to our land and that of my father and mother have never born borne any other name other than ours. The little four-room house we live in on our

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six acres is more than 100 years old, and it has the original chimney and the loft is hand-hewn. The sills are put together with wooden pegs. During the tourist seasons we have lots of visitors from all parts of the country who have heard about the old house and have come asking to see it. So it is our ambition to build ourselves a new and larger house and move our ancient landmark to one side, and restore it as nearly as we can to its original appearance and keep it as a cherrished antique, both for sentiment and as an attraction to visitors. We are thinking of borrowing the money for the new house and furnishing it to rent by the season to tourists who may prove desirable. In this way [?] we could still live as we do now and apply our rental money on our loan. By saving systematically all we can out of our earnings we could pay back the money we borrow and then live in the now house ourselves after a few years of renting it. This is only our dream but if we continue to prosper and to keep our health we believe that we can do it.

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“My great grandmother used to live in our present house. She was Dr. Polly Justice and she was the first licenced woman doctor in this part of the country. Her husband stayed at home and did the work and raised their children while she rode horseback calling on the sick. She answered calls day and night. She had a trustworthy horse that never hesitated to ford a stream or go wherever she directed. One of our dearest family possessions is an old photograph of great grandmother on one of her faithful horses. She has her medicine case strapped an her back in the picture and that's the way she always carried it. No call was too far away and no weather was too bad for her to make a trip to a sick person's home.

“Somehow we find an extra pleasure in hunting out these delicate little grey and green and red mosses and the other tiny gifts of nature that go into my little house gardens and which are helping us to pay for our little place and so keep it in the family. We have a very deep well with a bottom of solid rock and the water comes up from this well as cold as ice.

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We've put in electricity, too, and our little home is dear and comfortable for [?] just the two of us.

Mrs. Pace's smart dark [?] red felt hat over her well cut short hair of medium blonde shade, her plaid woolen scarf and the maroon sweater suit over which she wears a winter coat of black cloth, her well cared for hands and her intelligent conversation, her vital interest in everything, all testify to a modern successful and happy woman interested in her business of an original and delightful nature. A ready smile greets customers and her selling ability equals the attractions of her wares.

Continued Mrs. Pace:" I give away lots of my little gardens, too, especially at Christmas time, because I just like folks, and I have lots of friends that can't afford to buy them. I'm greatly interested in our 4 church, Refuge Baptist, which is very old, too. We had our 100th anniversary in the fall of 1936. I'm clerk and secretary and for that occasion I wrote the history of the old church which was printed in a Hendersonville paper at that time. My grandfather was one of its founders. My husband doesn't drink and with both of us working we can afford to give liberally to our church and we take an active part in its services.

"Besides my little gardens I have a fine collection of dahlias and I'm adding to it every year. I began with just one bushel of bulbs and now I have 25 bushels to sell. I ship them to many tourists in different states who are visiting in Hendersonville in the summers and they see my flowers and give me orders for the bulbs to be sent them at the proper time. Most of my shipments go to people in Florida, though. This brings me a nice addition to my income from the little bowls of evergreens which I sell during the fall and winter. I have all sorts and colors of dahlias from the tiny pom-poms to flowers as large as saucers.

"Early in March we prepare seed beds and I raise worlds of flower plants until glass cloth and sell them by the dozen here in the market. I always raise petunias, scarlet sage, asters, and other small and popular flowers and mine are early, too. We make our own

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glass cloth and last year from one bed I sold enough to cover the entire expense of all the others. At one time I bought \$20 worth of flower seeds.

"We have no children, but we both agree that the size of a family ought to depend upon the income of the parents. It isn't right for people to have more children than they can take care of and educate. I had 12 years of schooling altogether. I finished high school and then took a post graduate business course. I think the school systems of 5 today are very good and that every boy and girl should go through high school no matter what they may want to do afterward. We believe in getting a home first of all after marriage and that's what we've been [?] working for. Of course a car is a necessity to us because my husband has to go to his work and I have to go to mine three days every week. Then I buy most of my bowls for this business in Asheville and market some of my things there, so I have to buy here quite often. With my business grown so much larger i have to buy in wholesale lots now. After we had finished paying for my sickness we started buying our little six acre place and we are gradually getting it paid for. We have a nice garden every summer and I always can between 250 and 300 quarts of vegetables and fruits for our own use. Still it takes about \$50 a month for us to meet all our obligations and expenses. We feel that we are just plain everyday decent folks paying our bills, doing our church work, earning our living with honest effort. We both vote and we vote quite independently of each other. I never ask anyone how I should vote for I can read and think for myself and my husband does the same way I guess.

"I believe within the past year or so the churches seem to be more alive and feel more keenly [?] the need of religion in an unhappy and wicked world. I don't know how it is in other counties where there is so much trouble and unrest, but I think the churches of our country are certainly putting forth more effort to teach people the right things. I never danced but I used to go to the pictures sometimes. Now we don't spend our money that

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way because we're all wrapped up in our dreams for the future and it will take constant saving if we are to realize these ambitions we have".